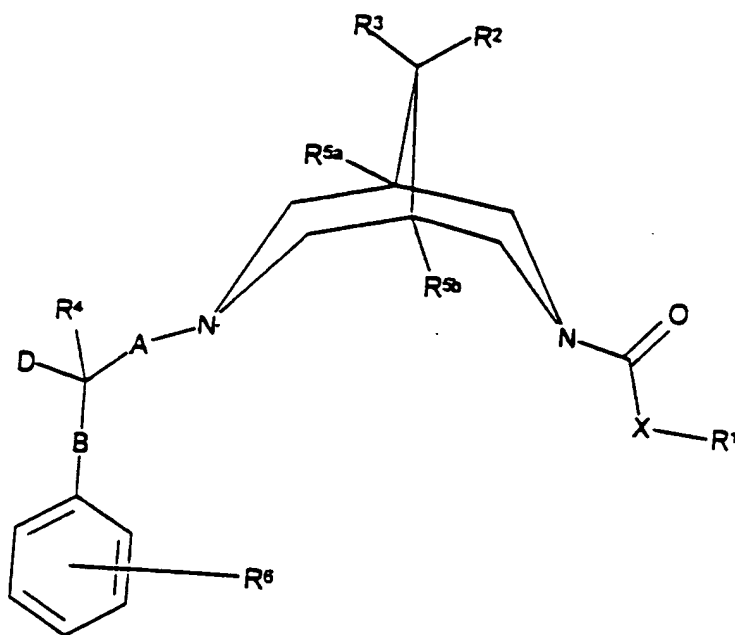


**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Please substitute the following amended claims for corresponding claims previously presented.

1 (Currently amended). A compound of formula I,



wherein

R<sup>1</sup> represents C<sub>1-12</sub> alkyl, C<sub>3-12</sub> cycloalkyl, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>a</sub>-aryl, or (CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>a</sub>Het<sup>1</sup> (all of which are optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from -OH, halo, cyano, nitro, C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl, C<sub>3-4</sub> cycloalkyl and/or C<sub>1-4</sub> alkoxy or C<sub>3-4</sub> cycloalkoxy);

a represents 0, 1, 2, 3, or 4;

Het<sup>1</sup> represents a five to ten-membered heterocyclic ring containing one or more heteroatoms selected from oxygen, nitrogen and/or sulfur, and which also optionally includes one or more =O substituents;

X represents O or S;

R<sup>5a</sup> and R<sup>5b</sup> independently represent H or C<sub>1-3</sub> alkyl or C<sub>3</sub> cycloalkoxy;

R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> independently represent H, C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl (optionally substituted with one or more nitro or cyano groups), C<sub>3-4</sub> cycloalkyl, OR<sup>7</sup>, N(R<sup>7a</sup>)R<sup>7b</sup>, OC(O)R<sup>8</sup> or together form -O-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>-O-, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub>-, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>4</sub>- or -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>5</sub>-;

*F*  
R<sup>7</sup> and R<sup>8</sup> independently represent H, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl, or -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>b</sub>-aryl (which latter two groups are optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from -OH, halo, cyano, nitro, C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl, ~~and/or~~ C<sub>1-4</sub> alkoxy, and/or C<sub>3-4</sub> cycloalkyl);

R<sup>7a</sup> and R<sup>7b</sup> independently represent H, or C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl or C<sub>3-6</sub> cycloalkyl;

b represents 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4;

R<sup>4</sup> represents H, or C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl or C<sub>3-6</sub> cycloalkyl;

D represents H, -OH, or -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>c</sub>N(R<sup>10</sup>)(R<sup>11</sup>);

c represents 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4;

R<sup>10</sup> represents H, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl, C<sub>3-6</sub> cycloalkyl, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>d</sub>-aryl, -C(NH)NH<sub>2</sub>, -S(O)<sub>2</sub>R<sup>13</sup>, -[C(O)]<sub>e</sub>N(R<sup>14</sup>)(R<sup>15</sup>), -C(O)R<sup>16</sup> or -C(O)OR<sup>17</sup>;

e represents 1 or 2;

R<sup>11</sup> represents H, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl, -C(O)R<sup>18</sup> or -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>f</sub>-aryl (which latter group is optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from -OH, cyano, halo, amino, nitro, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl ~~and/or~~ C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy, C<sub>3-6</sub> cycloalkyl and/or C<sub>3-6</sub> cycloalkoxy);

$R^{14}$ ,  $R^{15}$ ,  $R^{16}$ ,  $R^{17}$  and  $R^{18}$  independently represent H,  $C_{1-6}$  alkyl,  $C_{3-6}$  cycloalkyl,  $Het^2$  or  $-(CH_2)_g$ -aryl (which latter three groups are optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from -OH, cyano, halo, amino, nitro,  $C_{1-6}$  alkyl and/or  $C_{1-6}$  alkoxy,  $C_{3-6}$  cycloalkyl and/or  $C_{3-6}$  cycloalkoxy);

$R^{13}$  represents  $C_{1-6}$  alkyl,  $C_{3-6}$  cycloalkyl, aryl or  $-(CH_2)_h$ -aryl (all of which are all optionally substituted by one or more substituents chosen from halo, nitro,  $C_{1-6}$  alkyl and/or  $C_{1-6}$  alkoxy,  $C_{3-6}$  cycloalkyl and/or  $C_{3-6}$  cycloalkoxy);

d, f, g and h independently represent 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4;

$F_1$   $Het^2$  represents a five to ten-membered heterocyclic ring containing one or more heteroatoms selected from oxygen, nitrogen and/or sulfur, and which also optionally includes one or more =O substituents;

$R^6$  represents one or more optional substituents selected from -OH, cyano, halo, amino, nitro,  $C_{1-6}$  alkyl (optionally terminated by  $-N(H)C(O)OR^{18a}$ ),  $C_{1-6}$  alkoxy,  $C_{3-6}$  cycloalkyl,  $C_{3-6}$  cycloalkoxy,  $-C(O)N(H)R^{19}$ ,  $-NHC(O)N(H)R^{20}$ ,  $-N(H)S(O)_2R^{21}$  and/or  $-OS(O)_2R^{22}$ ;

$R^{19}$  and  $R^{20}$  independently represent H or  $C_{1-6}$  alkyl or  $C_{3-6}$  cycloalkyl;

$R^{18a}$ ,  $R^{21}$  and  $R^{22}$  independently represent  $C_{1-6}$  alkyl or  $C_{3-6}$  cycloalkyl;

A represents a single bond,  $C_{1-6}$  alkylene,  $-N(R^{23})(CH_2)_j-$ ,  $-O(CH_2)_j-$  or  $-(CH_2)_jC(H)(OR^{23})(CH_2)_k-$  (in which latter three groups, the  $-(CH_2)_j-$  group is attached to the bispidine nitrogen atom, and which latter four groups are all optionally substituted by one or more OH groups);

B represents a single bond,  $C_{1-4}$  alkylene,  $-(CH_2)_mN(R^{24})-$ ,  $(CH_2)_mS(O)_n-$ ,  $-(CH_2)_mO-$  (in which three latter groups, the  $-(CH_2)_m-$  group is attached to the carbon atom bearing D and  $R^4$ ),  $-C(O)N(R^{24})-$  (in which latter group, the  $-C(O)-$  group is

attached to the carbon atom bearing D and R<sup>4</sup>), N(R<sup>24</sup>)C(O)O(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>m</sub>- or -N(R<sup>24</sup>)(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>m</sub>-  
(in which latter two groups, the N(R<sup>24</sup>) group is attached to the carbon atom bearing D  
and R<sup>4</sup>);

j, k and m independently represent 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4;

n represents 0, 1 or 2;

R<sup>23</sup> represents H, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl, C<sub>3-6</sub> cycloalkyl or C(O)R<sup>25</sup>

R<sup>24</sup> represents H or C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl or C<sub>3-6</sub> cycloalkyl;

R<sup>25</sup> represents H, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl, C<sub>3-6</sub> cycloalkyl, Het<sup>3</sup> or -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>p</sub>-aryl (which latter two  
groups are optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from -OH, cyano,  
halo, amino, nitro, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl and/or C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy, C<sub>3-6</sub> cycloalkyl and/or C<sub>3-6</sub> cycloalkoxy);

Het<sup>3</sup> represents a five to ten-membered heterocyclic ring containing one or more  
heteroatoms selected from oxygen, nitrogen and/or sulfur, and which also optionally  
includes one or more =O substituents;

p represents 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, N-oxide or C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl quaternary  
ammonium derivative thereof;

wherein alkyl groups that R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>4</sup>, R<sup>5a</sup>, R<sup>5b</sup>, R<sup>6</sup>, R<sup>7</sup>, R<sup>7a</sup>, R<sup>7b</sup>, R<sup>8</sup>, R<sup>10</sup>, R<sup>11</sup>,  
R<sup>13</sup>, R<sup>14</sup>, R<sup>15</sup>, R<sup>16</sup>, R<sup>17</sup>, R<sup>18</sup>, R<sup>18a</sup>, R<sup>19</sup>, R<sup>20</sup>, R<sup>21</sup>, R<sup>22</sup>, R<sup>23</sup>, R<sup>24</sup>, R<sup>25</sup> and D may represent,  
and with which R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>7</sup>, R<sup>8</sup>, R<sup>11</sup>, R<sup>13</sup>, R<sup>14</sup>, R<sup>15</sup>, R<sup>16</sup>, R<sup>17</sup>, R<sup>18</sup> and R<sup>25</sup> may be substituted;  
and alkoxy groups and R<sup>6</sup> may represent, and with which R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>7</sup>, R<sup>8</sup>, R<sup>11</sup>, R<sup>13</sup>, R<sup>14</sup>, R<sup>15</sup>,  
R<sup>16</sup>, R<sup>17</sup>, R<sup>18</sup> and R<sup>25</sup> may be substituted, may be linear or, when there is a sufficient  
number (i.e. three) of carbon atoms, be branched and/or cyclic, and wherein, when  
there is a sufficient number (i.e. four) of carbon atoms, such alkyl and alkoxy groups  
may also be part cyclic/acyclic, and wherein such alkyl and alkoxy groups may also be

saturated or, when there is a sufficient number (i.e. two) of carbon atoms, be unsaturated and/or interrupted by oxygen and/or substituted by one or more fluoro groups; and

wherein alkylene groups that A and B may represent, and  $-(CH_2)-$  containing groups that  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$  and  $R^3$  (together),  $R^7$ ,  $R^8$ ,  $R^{10}$ ,  $R^{11}$ ,  $R^{13}$ ,  $R^{14}$ ,  $R^{15}$ ,  $R^{16}$ ,  $R^{17}$ ,  $R^{18}$ ,  $R^{25}$ , A, B and D may include, may be linear or, when there is a sufficient number (i.e. two) of carbon atoms, be branched, and wherein such alkylene groups and  $-(CH_2)-$  containing chains may also be saturated or, when there is a sufficient number (i.e. two) of carbon atoms, be unsaturated and/or interrupted by oxygen;

provided that:

(a) when D represents either H or -OH, and  $R^{5a}$  and  $R^{5b}$  both represent H, then at least one of  $R^2$  and  $R^3$  represents  $OR^7$ ,  $OC(O)R^8$  or  $C_{1-4}$  alkyl, which alkyl group is substituted with one or more nitro or cyano groups; and

(b) when D represents -OH or  $-(CH_2)_cN(R^{10})R^{11}$  in which c represents 0, then:-

(i) A does not represent  $-N(R^{23})(CH_2)_j-$ ,  $-O(CH_2)_j-$  or  $-(CH_2)_jC(H)(OR^{23})(CH_2)_k-$  (in which k is 0); and/or

(ii) m does not represent 0 when B represents  $-(CH_2)_mN(R^{24})-$ ,  $-(CH_2)_mS(O)_n-$  or  $-(CH_2)_mO-$ .

2 (previously amended). A compound as claimed in Claim 1, wherein  $R^1$  represents optionally substituted  $-(CH_2)_a$ -phenyl, in which a is 0, 1, 2 or 3, or optionally substituted, optionally unsaturated, linear, branched or cyclic,  $C_{1-18}$  alkyl (which latter group may also be interrupted by an oxygen atom).

3 (previously amended). A compound as claimed in Claim 1, wherein  $R^2$  represents H,  $OR^7$ ,  $-CH_2NO_2$  or  $-OC(O)R^8$  or together with  $R^3$   $-O-(CH_2)_2-O-$ .

4 (previously amended). A compound as claimed in Claim 1, wherein  $R^3$  represents H,  $OR^7$ ,  $C_{1-4}$  alkyl or together with  $R^2$  represents  $-O-(CH_2)_2-O-$ .

5 (previously amended). A compound as claimed in Claim 1, wherein  $R^4$  represents H or  $C_{1-2}$  alkyl.

6 (previously amended). A compound as claimed in Claim 1, wherein  $R^{5a}$  and  $R^{5b}$  either both represent H or both represent methyl.

7 (previously amended). A compound as claimed in Claim 1, wherein  $R^6$  represents one or more substituents selected from  $C_{1-6}$  alkyl, cyano, nitro, amino or  $C(O)N(H)R^{19}$  or  $N(H)S(O)_2R^{21}$ .

8 (previously amended). A compound as claimed in Claim 1, wherein X represents O.

9 (previously amended). A compound as claimed in Claim 1, wherein A represents a single bond or linear, or branched,  $C_{1-4}$  alkylene (which group is also optionally interrupted by O).

10 (previously amended). A compound as claimed in Claim 1, wherein B represents a single bond, C<sub>1-4</sub> alkylene, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>m</sub>O- or -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>m</sub>N(R<sup>24</sup>)- (in which latter two cases m is 1, 2 or 3).

11 (previously amended). A compound as claimed in Claim 1, wherein when D represents -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>c</sub>N(R<sup>10</sup>)(R<sup>11</sup>), c represents 0, 1 or 2.

F<sub>1</sub> 12 (previously amended). A compound as claimed in Claim 1, wherein when D represents -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>c</sub>N(R<sup>10</sup>)(R<sup>11</sup>), R<sup>10</sup> represents H, C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl, -C(O)R<sup>16</sup> (in which R<sup>16</sup> is H, C<sub>1-3</sub> alkyl or Het<sup>2</sup>), -C(O)OR<sup>17</sup> (in which R<sup>17</sup> is C<sub>1-5</sub> alkyl, phenyl or C<sub>1-3</sub> alkylphenyl), -C(NH)NH<sub>2</sub> or [C(O)]<sub>e</sub>N(H)R<sub>15</sub> (in which R<sub>15</sub> is H or C<sub>1-3</sub> alkyl).

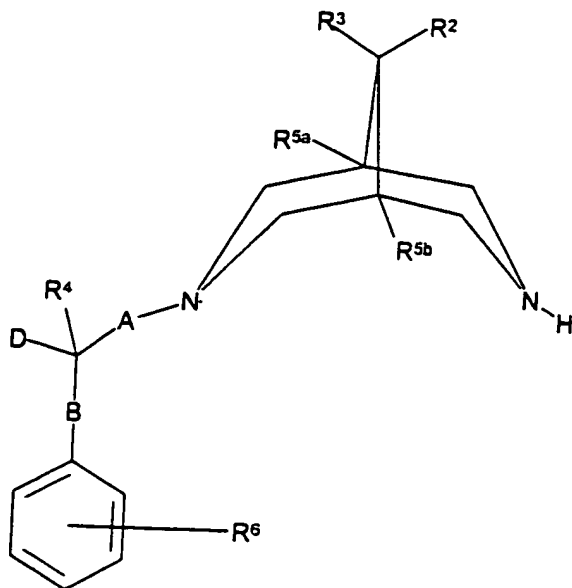
13 (previously amended). A compound as claimed in Claim 1, wherein when D represents -(CH)<sub>c</sub>N(R<sup>10</sup>)(R<sup>11</sup>), R<sup>11</sup> represents H.

14 (previously amended). A pharmaceutical formulation including a compound as defined in Claim 1 in admixture with a pharmaceutically-acceptable adjuvant, diluent or carrier.

20 (currently amended). A method of prophylaxis or treatment of an arrhythmia which method comprises administration of a therapeutically effective amount of a compound as defined in Claim 1 to a person ~~suffering from or susceptible to, such a~~ condition in need thereof.

21 (currently amended) A process for the preparation of a compound of formula I as defined in Claim 1 which comprises:

(a) reaction of a compound of formula II,



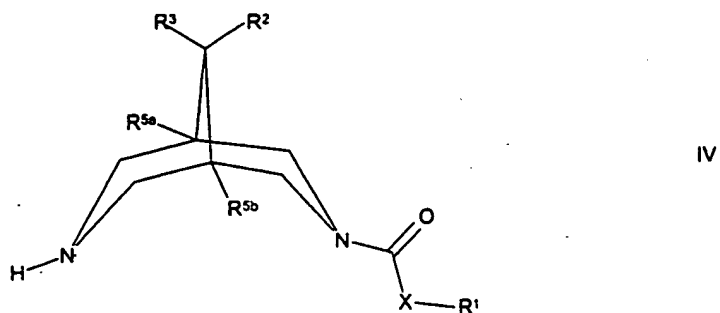
wherein  $R^2$ ,  $R^3$ ,  $R^4$ ,  $R^{5a}$ ,  $R^{5b}$ ,  $R^6$ , A, B and D are as defined in Claim 1 with a compound of formula III,



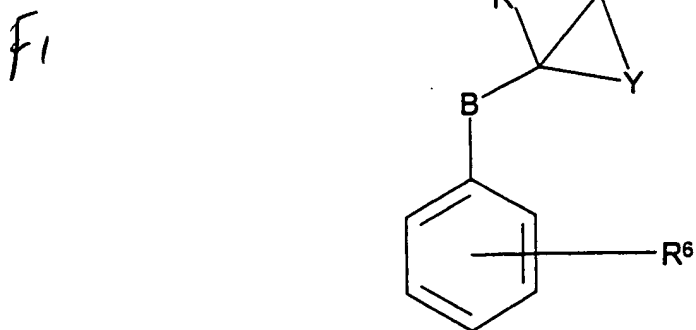
wherein  $L^1$  represents a leaving group and  $R^1$  and X are as defined in Claim 1;

(b) for compounds of formula I in which A represents  $CH_2$  and D represents  $-OH$  or  $N(R^{10})H$ , reaction of a compound of formula IV,



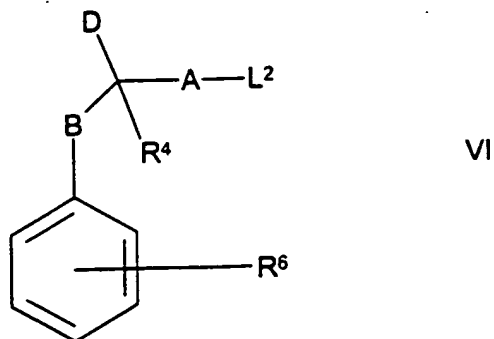


wherein  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$ ,  $R^3$ ,  $R^{5a}$ ,  $R^{5b}$  and  $X$  are as defined in Claim 1, with a compound of formula V,



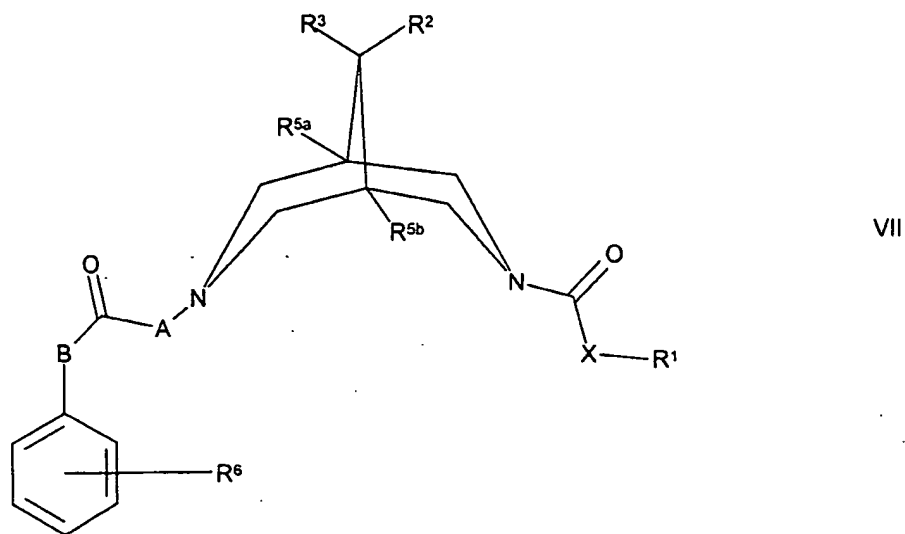
wherein  $Y$  represents  $O$  or  $N(R^{10})$  and  $R^4$ ,  $R^6$ ,  $R^{10}$  and  $B$  are as defined in Claim 1;

(c) reaction of a compound of formula IV, as defined above, with a compound of formula VI,



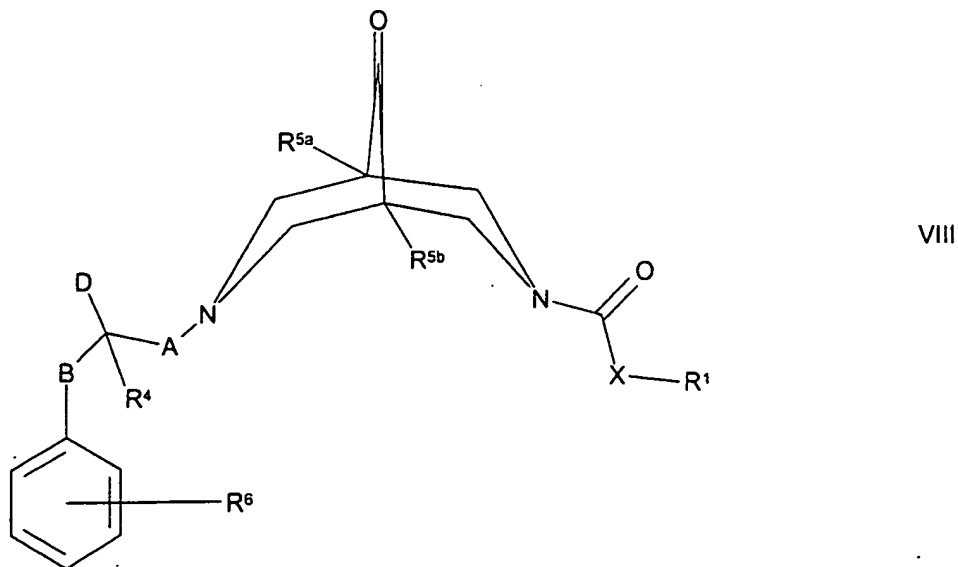
wherein  $L^2$  represents a leaving group and  $R^4$ ,  $R^6$ ,  $A$ ,  $B$  and  $D$  are as defined in Claim 1;

(d) for compounds of formula I in which D represents H or OH and  $R^4$  represents H, reduction of a compound of formula VII,



wherein  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$ ,  $R^3$ ,  $R^{5a}$ ,  $R^{5b}$ ,  $R^6$ , A, B and X are as defined in Claim 1;

(e) for compounds of formula I in which one of  $R^2$  and  $R^3$  represents H or OH and the other represents H, reduction of a corresponding compound of formula VIII,



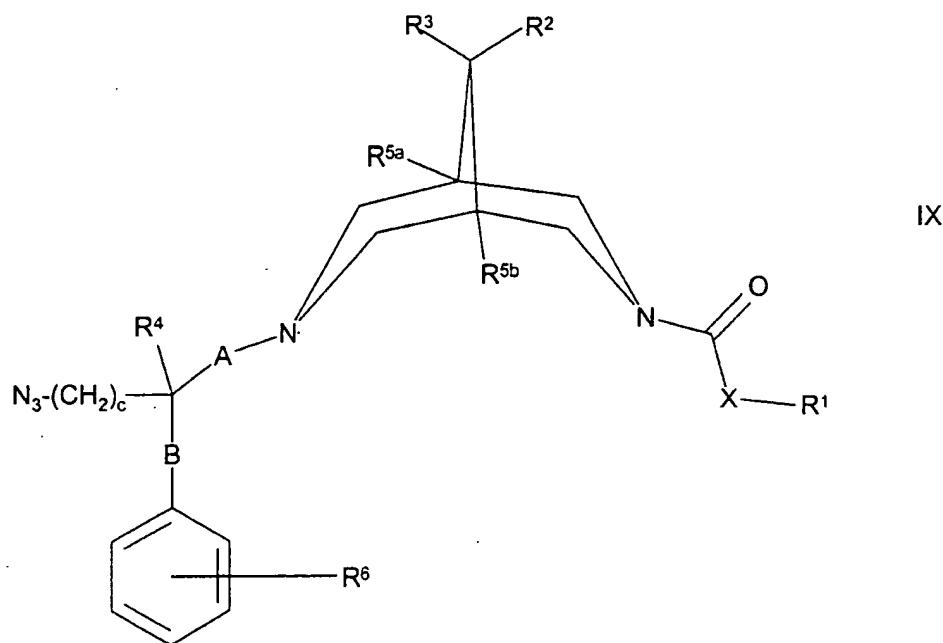
wherein  $R^1$ ,  $R^4$ ,  $R^{5a}$ ,  $R^{5b}$ ,  $R^6$ , A, B, D and X are as defined in Claim 1;

(f) for compounds of formula I in which  $R^2$  and/or  $R^3$  represents  $OC(O)R^8$  and  $R^8$  is as defined in Claim 1, coupling of a corresponding compound of formula I in which  $R^2$  and/or  $R^3$  (as appropriate) represents OH and a compound of formula VIIIA,



wherein  $R^8$  is as defined in Claim 1;

(g) for compounds of formula I in which D represents  $-(CH_2)_cNH_2$ , reduction of a corresponding compound of formula IX,



wherein  $c$ ,  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$ ,  $R^3$ ,  $R^4$ ,  $R^{5a}$ ,  $R^{5b}$ ,  $R^6$ , A, B and X are as defined in Claim 1;

(h) for compounds of formula I in which D represents  $-N(R^{11})C(O)NH(R^{15})$ , in which  $R^{11}$  and  $R^{15}$  are as defined in Claim 1 except that  $R^{11}$  does not represent  $C(O)R^{18}$ , reaction of a corresponding compound of formula I in which D represents  $-N(R^{11})H$ , in which  $R^{11}$  is as defined in Claim 1 except that it does not represent  $C(O)R^{18}$  in which  $R^{18}$  is as defined in Claim 1, with a compound of formula X,



wherein  $\text{R}^{15}$  is as defined in Claim 1;

(i) for compounds of formula I in which D represents  $-\text{N}(\text{H})[\text{C}(\text{O})]_2\text{NH}_2$ , reaction of a corresponding compound of formula I in which D represents

$-\text{NH}_2$  with oxalic acid diamide;

(j) for compounds of formula I in which D represents  $-\text{N}(\text{R}^{11})\text{C}(\text{O})\text{R}^{16}$ , in which  $\text{R}^{11}$  and  $\text{R}^{16}$  are as defined in Claim 1 except that  $\text{R}^{11}$  does not represent  $\text{C}(\text{O})\text{R}^{18}$ , reaction of a corresponding compound of formula I in which D represents  $-\text{N}(\text{R}^{11})\text{H}$ , in which  $\text{R}^{11}$  is as defined in Claim 1 except that it does not represent  $\text{C}(\text{O})\text{R}^{18}$  in which  $\text{R}^{18}$  is as defined in Claim 1, with a compound of formula XI,



wherein  $\text{R}_x$  represents a suitable leaving group and  $\text{R}^{16}$  is as defined in Claim 1;

(k) for compounds of formula I in which D represents  $-\text{N}(\text{H})\text{R}^{10}$  and  $\text{R}^{10}$  is as defined in Claim 1 except that it does not represent H or  $-\text{C}(\text{NH})\text{NH}_2$ , reaction of a corresponding compound of formula I wherein D represents  $-\text{NH}_2$  with a compound of formula XIA,



wherein  $\text{R}^{10a}$  represents  $\text{R}^{10}$  as defined in Claim 1 except that it does not represent H or  $-\text{C}(\text{NH})\text{NH}_2$  and  $\text{L}^1$  is as defined above;

(l) for compounds of formula I which are bispidine-nitrogen N-oxide derivatives, oxidation of the corresponding bispidine nitrogen of a corresponding compound of formula I;

(m) for compounds of formula I which are  $\text{C}_{1-4}$  alkyl quaternary ammonium salt derivatives, in which the alkyl group is attached to a bispidine nitrogen, reaction, at the bispidine nitrogen, of a corresponding compound of formula I with a compound of

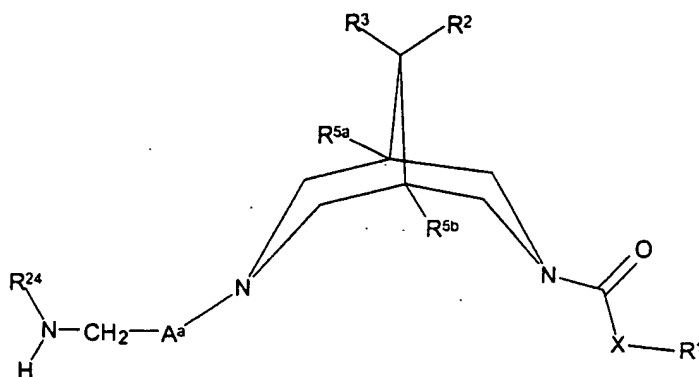
formula XII,



XII

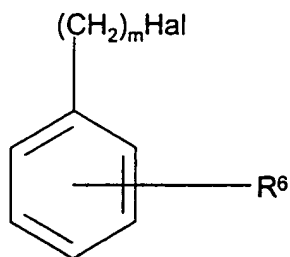
wherein  $R^a$  represents  $C_{1-4}$  alkyl and Hal represents Cl, Br or I;

(n) for compounds of formula I in which D and  $R^4$  both represent H, A represents  $C_{1-6}$  alkylene, B represents  $N(R^{24})(CH_2)_m$  and m and  $R^{24}$  are as defined in Claim 1, reaction of a compound of formula XIII,



XIII

wherein  $A^a$  represents  $C_{1-6}$  alkylene and  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$ ,  $R^3$ ,  $R^{5a}$ ,  $R^{5b}$ ,  $R^{24}$  and X are as defined in Claim 1 with a compound of formula XIV,



XIV

wherein  $R^6$ , m are as defined in Claim 1 and Hal is as defined above;

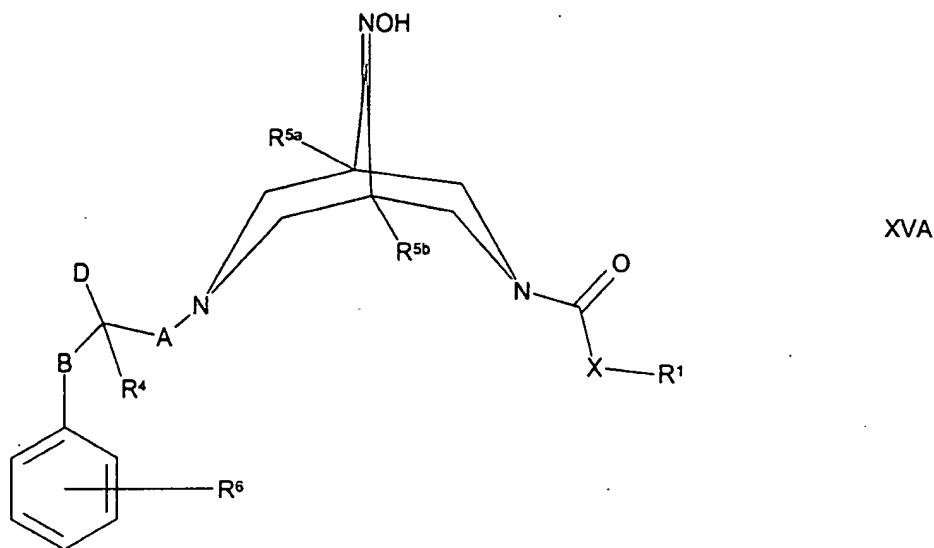
(o) reaction of a compound of formula II, as defined above, with a compound of formula XV,



XV

wherein  $R^1$  and X are as defined in Claim 1, in the presence of 1,1'-carbonyldiimidazole;  
 (p) for compounds of formula I in which one of  $R^2$  and  $R^3$  represents  $-\text{NH}_2$  and the other represents H, reduction of a compound of formula XVA,

F<sub>1</sub>



wherein  $R^1$ ,  $R^4$ ,  $R^{5a}$ ,  $R^{5b}$ ,  $R^6$ , A, B, D and X are as defined in Claim 1; or

(q) for compounds of formula I in which one or both of  $R^2$  and  $R^3$  represent  $-\text{N}(\text{R}^{7a})\text{R}^{7b}$  in which one or both of  $R^{7a}$  and  $R^{7b}$  represents  $\text{C}_{1-6}$  alkyl, alkylation of a corresponding compound of formula I in which  $R^2$  and/or  $R^3$  represent  $-\text{N}(\text{R}^{7a})\text{R}^{7b}$  (as appropriate) in which  $R^{7a}$  and/or  $R^{7b}$  (as appropriate) represent H, using a compound of formula XXIB,

$\text{R}^{7c}\text{L}^1$

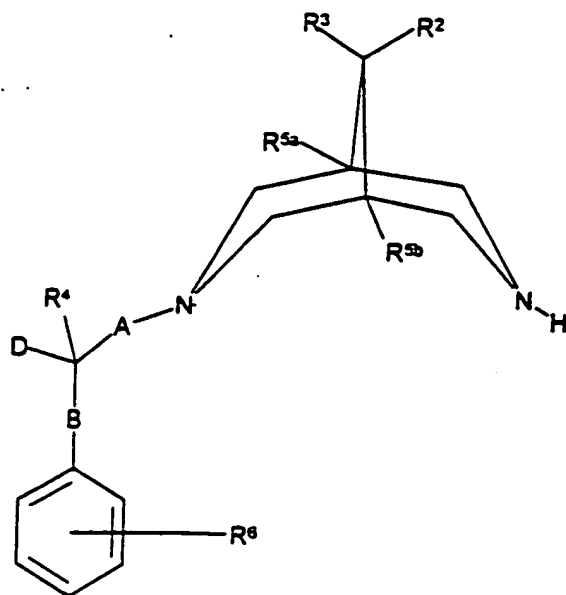
XXIB

wherein  $\text{R}^{7c}$  represents  $\text{C}_{1-6}$  alkyl and  $\text{L}^1$  is as defined above; or

(r) conversion of one  $\text{R}^6$  substituent to another; or

(s) ~~(r) deprotection of a protected derivative of a compound of formula I as defined in Claim 1.~~

22 (currently amended). A compound of formula II



II

wherein  $R^2$ ,  $R^3$ ,  $R^4$ ,  $R^{5a}$ ,  $R^{5b}$ ,  $R^6$ , A, B and D are as defined in Claim 1

$R^{5a}$  and  $R^{5b}$  independently represent H,  $C_{1-3}$  alkyl or  $C_3$  cycloalkoxy;

$R^2$  and  $R^3$  independently represent H,  $C_{1-4}$  alkyl (optionally substituted with one or more nitro or cyano groups),  $C_{3-4}$  cycloalkyl,  $OR^7$ ,  $N(R^{7a})R^{7b}$ ,  $OC(O)R^8$  or together form -  
 $O-(CH_2)_2-O-$ ,  $-(CH_2)_3-$ ,  $-(CH_2)_4-$  or  $-(CH_2)_5-$ ;

$R^7$  and  $R^8$  independently represent H,  $C_{1-6}$  alkyl, or  $-(CH_2)_b$ -aryl (which latter two groups are optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from -OH, halo, cyano, nitro,  $C_{1-4}$  alkyl,  $C_{1-4}$  alkoxy, and/or  $C_{3-4}$  cycloalkyl);

$R^{7a}$  and  $R^{7b}$  independently represent H,  $C_{1-6}$  alkyl or  $C_{3-6}$  cycloalkyl;

b represents 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4;

$R^4$  represents H,  $C_{1-6}$  alkyl or  $C_{3-6}$  cycloalkyl;

D represents H, -OH, or  $-(CH_2)_cN(R^{10})(R^{11})$ ;

c represents 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4;

R<sup>10</sup> represents H, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl, C<sub>3-6</sub> cycloalkyl, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>d</sub>-aryl, -C(NH)NH<sub>2</sub>, -S(O)<sub>2</sub>R<sup>13</sup>, -[C(O)]<sub>e</sub>N(R<sup>14</sup>)(R<sup>15</sup>), -C(O)R<sup>16</sup> or -C(O)OR<sup>17</sup>;

e represents 1 or 2;

R<sup>11</sup> represents H, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl, -C(O)R<sup>18</sup> or -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>f</sub>-aryl (which latter group is optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from -OH, cyano, halo, amino, nitro, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy, C<sub>3-6</sub> cycloalkyl and/or C<sub>3-6</sub> cycloalkoxy);

R<sup>14</sup>, R<sup>15</sup>, R<sup>16</sup>, R<sup>17</sup> and R<sup>18</sup> independently represent H, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl, C<sub>3-6</sub> cycloalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup> or -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>g</sub>-aryl (which latter three groups are optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from -OH, cyano, halo, amino, nitro, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy, C<sub>3-6</sub> cycloalkyl and/or C<sub>3-6</sub> cycloalkoxy);

R<sup>13</sup> represents C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl, C<sub>3-6</sub> cycloalkyl, aryl or -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>h</sub>-aryl (all of which are optionally substituted by one or more substituents chosen from halo, nitro, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy, C<sub>3-6</sub> cycloalkyl and/or C<sub>3-6</sub> cycloalkoxy);

d, f, g and h independently represent 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4;

Het<sup>2</sup> represents a five to ten-membered heterocyclic ring containing one or more heteroatoms selected from oxygen, nitrogen and/or sulfur, and which also optionally includes one or more =O substituents;

R<sup>6</sup> represents one or more optional substituents selected from -OH, cyano, halo, amino, nitro, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl (optionally terminated by -N(H)C(O)OR<sup>18a</sup>), C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy, C<sub>3-6</sub> cycloalkyl, C<sub>3-6</sub> cycloalkoxy, -C(O)N(H)R<sup>19</sup>, -NHC(O)N(H)R<sup>20</sup>, -N(H)S(O)<sub>2</sub>R<sup>21</sup> and/or -OS(O)<sub>2</sub>R<sup>22</sup>;

R<sup>19</sup> and R<sup>20</sup> independently represent H, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl or C<sub>3-6</sub> cycloalkyl;

R<sup>18a</sup>, R<sup>21</sup> and R<sup>22</sup> independently represent C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl or C<sub>3-6</sub> cycloalkyl;



A represents a single bond, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylene, -N(R<sup>23</sup>)(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>j</sub>-, -O(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>j</sub>- or -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>j</sub>C(H)(OR<sup>23</sup>)(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>k</sub>- (in which latter three groups, the -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>j</sub>- group is attached to the bispidine nitrogen atom, and which latter four groups are all optionally substituted by one or more OH groups);

B represents a single bond, C<sub>1-4</sub> alkylene, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>m</sub>N(R<sup>24</sup>)-, (CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>m</sub>S(O)<sub>n</sub>-, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>m</sub>O- (in which three latter groups, the -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>m</sub>- group is attached to the carbon atom bearing D and R<sup>4</sup>), -C(O)N(R<sup>24</sup>)- (in which latter group, the -C(O)- group is attached to the carbon atom bearing D and R<sup>4</sup>), N(R<sup>24</sup>)C(O)O(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>m</sub>- or -N(R<sup>24</sup>)(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>m</sub>- (in which latter two groups, the N(R<sup>24</sup>) group is attached to the carbon atom bearing D and R<sup>4</sup>);

i, k and m independently represent 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4;

n represents 0, 1 or 2;

R<sup>23</sup> represents H, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl, C<sub>3-6</sub> cycloalkyl or C(O)R<sup>25</sup>

R<sup>24</sup> represents H, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl or C<sub>3-6</sub> cycloalkyl;

R<sup>25</sup> represents H, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl, C<sub>3-6</sub> cycloalkyl, Het<sup>3</sup> or -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>p</sub>-aryl (which latter two groups are optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from -OH, cyano, halo, amino, nitro, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy, C<sub>3-6</sub> cycloalkyl and/or C<sub>3-6</sub> cycloalkoxy);

Het<sup>3</sup> represents a five to ten-membered heterocyclic ring containing one or more heteroatoms selected from oxygen, nitrogen and/or sulfur, and which also optionally includes one or more =O substituents;

p represents 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4;

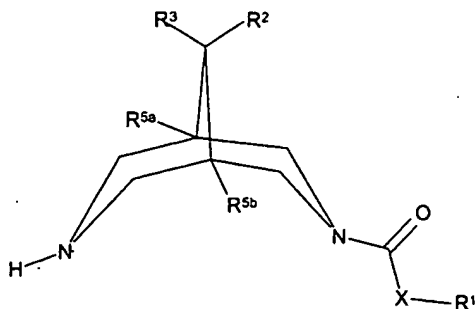
wherein alkyl groups that R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>4</sup>, R<sup>5a</sup>, R<sup>5b</sup>, R<sup>6</sup>, R<sup>7</sup>, R<sup>7a</sup>, R<sup>7b</sup>, R<sup>8</sup>, R<sup>10</sup>, R<sup>11</sup>, R<sup>13</sup>, R<sup>14</sup>, R<sup>15</sup>, R<sup>16</sup>, R<sup>17</sup>, R<sup>18</sup>, R<sup>18a</sup>, R<sup>19</sup>, R<sup>20</sup>, R<sup>21</sup>, R<sup>22</sup>, R<sup>23</sup>, R<sup>24</sup>, R<sup>25</sup> and D may represent, and with which R<sup>7</sup>, R<sup>8</sup>, R<sup>11</sup>, R<sup>13</sup>, R<sup>14</sup>, R<sup>15</sup>, R<sup>16</sup>, R<sup>17</sup>, R<sup>18</sup> and R<sup>25</sup> may be substituted; and

alkoxy groups and  $R^6$  may represent, and with which  $R^7, R^8, R^{11}, R^{13}, R^{14}, R^{15}, R^{16}, R^{17}, R^{18}$  and  $R^{25}$  may be substituted, may be linear or, when there is a sufficient number (i.e. three) of carbon atoms, be branched and/or cyclic, and wherein, when there is a sufficient number (i.e. four) of carbon atoms, such alkyl and alkoxy groups may also be part cyclic/acyclic, and wherein such alkyl and alkoxy groups may also be saturated or, when there is a sufficient number (i.e. two) of carbon atoms, be unsaturated and/or interrupted by oxygen and/or substituted by one or more fluoro groups; and

wherein alkylene groups that A and B may represent, and  $-(CH_2)-$  containing groups that  $R^2$  and  $R^3$  (together),  $R^7, R^8, R^{10}, R^{11}, R^{13}, R^{14}, R^{15}, R^{16}, R^{17}, R^{18}, R^{25}, A, B$  and D may include, may be linear or, when there is a sufficient number (i.e. two) of carbon atoms, be branched, and wherein such alkylene groups and  $-(CH_2)-$  containing chains may also be saturated or, when there is a sufficient number (i.e. two) of carbon atoms, be unsaturated and/or interrupted by oxygen,

or a derivative thereof, provided that when  $R^{5a}$  and  $R^{5b}$  both represent H, then D does not represent H or OH.

23 (currently amended). A compound of formula IV



wherein  $R^1, R^2, R^3, R^{5a}, R^{5b}$  and X are as defined in Claim 1

R<sup>1</sup> represents C<sub>1-12</sub> alkyl, C<sub>3-12</sub> cycloalkyl, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>a</sub>-aryl, or (CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>a</sub>Het<sup>1</sup> (all of which are optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from -OH, halo, cyano, nitro, C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl, C<sub>3-4</sub> cycloalkyl and/or C<sub>1-4</sub> alkoxy or C<sub>3-4</sub> cycloalkoxy);

a represents 0, 1, 2, 3, or 4;

Het<sup>1</sup> represents a five to ten-membered heterocyclic ring containing one or more heteroatoms selected from oxygen, nitrogen and/or sulfur, and which also optionally includes one or more =O substituents;

X represents O or S;

R<sup>5a</sup> and R<sup>5b</sup> independently represent H, C<sub>1-3</sub> alkyl or C<sub>3</sub> cycloalkoxy;

R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> independently represent H, C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl (optionally substituted with one or more nitro or cyano groups), C<sub>3-4</sub> cycloalkyl, OR<sup>7</sup>, N(R<sup>7a</sup>)R<sup>7b</sup>, OC(O)R<sup>8</sup> or together form -O-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>-O-, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub>-, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>4</sub>- or -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>5</sub>-;

R<sup>7</sup> and R<sup>8</sup> independently represent H, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl, or -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>b</sub>-aryl or (which latter two groups are optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from -OH, halo, cyano, nitro, C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl, C<sub>1-4</sub> alkoxy, and/or C<sub>3-4</sub> cycloalkyl);

R<sup>7a</sup> and R<sup>7b</sup> independently represent H, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl or C<sub>3-6</sub> cycloalkyl;

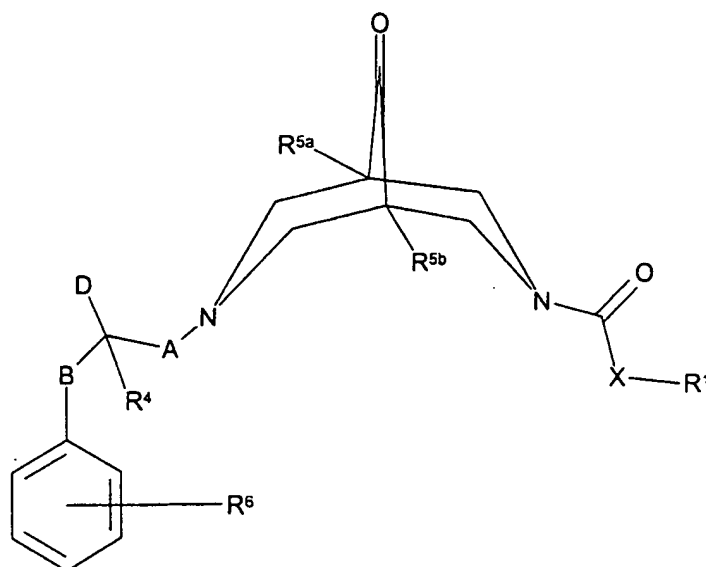
b represents 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4;

wherein alkyl groups that R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>5a</sup>, R<sup>5b</sup>, R<sup>7</sup>, R<sup>7a</sup>, R<sup>7b</sup> and R<sup>8</sup> may represent, and with which R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>7</sup> and R<sup>8</sup> may be substituted; and alkoxy groups and with which R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>7</sup> and R<sup>8</sup> may be substituted, may be linear or, when there is a sufficient number (i.e. three) of carbon atoms, be branched and/or cyclic, and wherein, when there is a sufficient number (i.e. four) of carbon atoms, such alkyl and alkoxy groups may also be part cyclic/acyclic, and wherein such alkyl and alkoxy groups may also be saturated or,

when there is a sufficient number (i.e. two) of carbon atoms, be unsaturated and/or interrupted by oxygen and/or substituted by one or more fluoro groups;

~~or a derivative thereof,~~ provided that when  $R^{5a}$  and  $R^{5b}$  both represent H, then at least one of  $R^2$  and  $R^3$  represents  $OR^7$ ,  $OC(O)R^8$  or  $C_{1-4}$  alkyl, which alkyl group is substituted with one or more nitro or cyano groups.

24 (currently amended). A compound of formula VIII



wherein  $R^1$ ,  $R^4$ ,  $R^{5a}$ ,  $R^{5b}$ ,  $R^6$ , A, B, D and X are as defined in Claim 1

$R^1$  represents  $C_{1-12}$  alkyl,  $C_{3-12}$  cycloalkyl,  $-(CH_2)_a$ -aryl, or  $(CH_2)_a$ Het<sup>1</sup> (all of which are optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from -OH, halo, cyano, nitro,  $C_{1-4}$  alkyl,  $C_{3-4}$  cycloalkyl and/or  $C_{1-4}$  alkoxy or  $C_{3-4}$  cycloalkoxy);

a represents 0, 1, 2, 3, or 4;

Het<sup>1</sup> represents a five to ten-membered heterocyclic ring containing one or more heteroatoms selected from oxygen, nitrogen and/or sulfur, and which also optionally includes one or more =O substituents;

X represents O or S;

R<sup>5a</sup> and R<sup>5b</sup> independently represent H, C<sub>1-3</sub> alkyl or C<sub>3</sub> cycloalkoxy;

R<sup>4</sup> represents H, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl or C<sub>3-6</sub> cycloalkyl;

D represents H, -OH, or -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>c</sub>N(R<sup>10</sup>)(R<sup>11</sup>);

c represents 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4;

R<sup>10</sup> represents H, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl, C<sub>3-6</sub> cycloalkyl, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>d</sub>-aryl, -C(NH)NH<sub>2</sub>, -S(O)<sub>2</sub>R<sup>13</sup>, -[C(O)]<sub>e</sub>N(R<sup>14</sup>)(R<sup>15</sup>), -C(O)R<sup>16</sup> or -C(O)OR<sup>17</sup>;

e represents 1 or 2;

R<sup>11</sup> represents H, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl, -C(O)R<sup>18</sup> or -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>f</sub>-aryl (which latter group is optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from -OH, cyano, halo, amino, nitro, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy, C<sub>3-6</sub> cycloalkyl and/or C<sub>3-6</sub> cycloalkoxy);

R<sup>14</sup>, R<sup>15</sup>, R<sup>16</sup>, R<sup>17</sup> and R<sup>18</sup> independently represent H, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl, C<sub>3-6</sub> cycloalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup> or -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>g</sub>-aryl (which latter three groups are optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from -OH, cyano, halo, amino, nitro, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy, C<sub>3-6</sub> cycloalkyl and/or C<sub>3-6</sub> cycloalkoxy);

R<sup>13</sup> represents C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl, C<sub>3-6</sub> cycloalkyl, aryl or -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>h</sub>-aryl (all of which are all optionally substituted by one or more substituents chosen from halo, nitro, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy, C<sub>3-6</sub> cycloalkyl and/or C<sub>3-6</sub> cycloalkoxy);

d, f, g and h independently represent 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4;

Het<sup>2</sup> represents a five to ten-membered heterocyclic ring containing one or more heteroatoms selected from oxygen, nitrogen and/or sulfur, and which also optionally includes one or more =O substituents;

R<sup>6</sup> represents one or more optional substituents selected from -OH, cyano, halo, amino, nitro, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl (optionally terminated by -N(H)C(O)OR<sup>18a</sup>), C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy, C<sub>3-6</sub> cycloalkyl, C<sub>3-6</sub> cycloalkoxy, -C(O)N(H)R<sup>19</sup>, -NHC(O)N(H)R<sup>20</sup>, -N(H)S(O)<sub>2</sub>R<sup>21</sup> and/or -OS(O)<sub>2</sub>R<sup>22</sup>;

R<sup>19</sup> and R<sup>20</sup> independently represent H, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl or C<sub>3-6</sub> cycloalkyl;

R<sup>18a</sup>, R<sup>21</sup> and R<sup>22</sup> independently represent C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl or C<sub>3-6</sub> cycloalkyl;

A represents a single bond, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylene, -N(R<sup>23</sup>)(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>j</sub>-, -O(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>j</sub>- or -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>j</sub>C(H)(OR<sup>23</sup>)(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>k</sub>- (in which latter three groups, the -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>j</sub>- group is attached to the bispidine nitrogen atom, and which latter four groups are all optionally substituted by one or more OH groups);

B represents a single bond, C<sub>1-4</sub> alkylene, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>m</sub>N(R<sup>24</sup>)-, (CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>m</sub>S(O)<sub>n</sub>-, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>m</sub>O- (in which three latter groups, the -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>m</sub>- group is attached to the carbon atom bearing D and R<sup>4</sup>), -C(O)N(R<sup>24</sup>)- (in which latter group, the -C(O)- group is attached to the carbon atom bearing D and R<sup>4</sup>), N(R<sup>24</sup>)C(O)O(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>m</sub>- or -N(R<sup>24</sup>)(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>m</sub>- (in which latter two groups, the N(R<sup>24</sup>) group is attached to the carbon atom bearing D and R<sup>4</sup>);

j, k and m independently represent 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4;

n represents 0, 1 or 2;

R<sup>23</sup> represents H, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl, C<sub>3-6</sub> cycloalkyl or C(O)R<sup>25</sup>

R<sup>24</sup> represents H, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl or C<sub>3-6</sub> cycloalkyl;

R<sup>25</sup> represents H, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl, C<sub>3-6</sub> cycloalkyl, Het<sup>3</sup> or -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>p</sub>-aryl (which latter two groups are optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from -OH, cyano, halo, amino, nitro, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy, C<sub>3-6</sub> cycloalkyl and/or C<sub>3-6</sub> cycloalkoxy);

Het<sup>3</sup> represents a five to ten-membered heterocyclic ring containing one or more heteroatoms selected from oxygen, nitrogen and/or sulfur, and which also optionally includes one or more =O substituents;

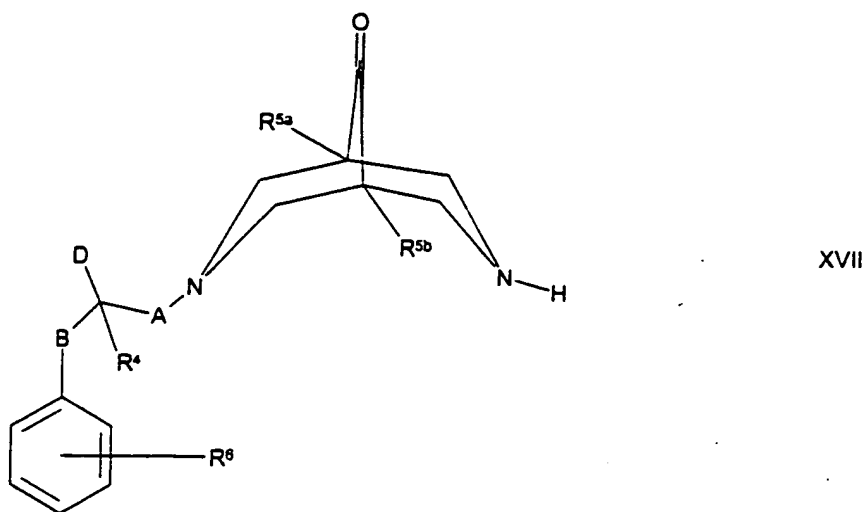
p represents 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4;

wherein alkyl groups that R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>4</sup>, R<sup>5a</sup>, R<sup>5b</sup>, R<sup>6</sup>, R<sup>7</sup>, R<sup>7a</sup>, R<sup>7b</sup>, R<sup>8</sup>, R<sup>10</sup>, R<sup>11</sup>, R<sup>13</sup>, R<sup>14</sup>, R<sup>15</sup>, R<sup>16</sup>, R<sup>17</sup>, R<sup>18</sup>, R<sup>18a</sup>, R<sup>19</sup>, R<sup>20</sup>, R<sup>21</sup>, R<sup>22</sup>, R<sup>23</sup>, R<sup>24</sup>, R<sup>25</sup> and D may represent, and with which R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>7</sup>, R<sup>8</sup>, R<sup>11</sup>, R<sup>13</sup>, R<sup>14</sup>, R<sup>15</sup>, R<sup>16</sup>, R<sup>17</sup>, R<sup>18</sup> and R<sup>25</sup> may be substituted; and alkoxy groups and R<sup>6</sup> may represent, and with which R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>7</sup>, R<sup>8</sup>, R<sup>11</sup>, R<sup>13</sup>, R<sup>14</sup>, R<sup>15</sup>, R<sup>16</sup>, R<sup>17</sup>, R<sup>18</sup> and R<sup>25</sup> may be substituted, may be linear or, when there is a sufficient number (i.e. three) of carbon atoms, be branched and/or cyclic, and wherein, when there is a sufficient number (i.e. four) of carbon atoms, such alkyl and alkoxy groups may also be part cyclic/acyclic, and wherein such alkyl and alkoxy groups may also be saturated or, when there is a sufficient number (i.e. two) of carbon atoms, be unsaturated and/or interrupted by oxygen and/or substituted by one or more fluoro groups; and

wherein alkylene groups that A and B may represent, and -(CH<sub>2</sub>)- containing groups that R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>7</sup>, R<sup>8</sup>, R<sup>10</sup>, R<sup>11</sup>, R<sup>13</sup>, R<sup>14</sup>, R<sup>15</sup>, R<sup>16</sup>, R<sup>17</sup>, R<sup>18</sup>, R<sup>25</sup>, A, B and D may include, may be linear or, when there is a sufficient number (i.e. two) of carbon atoms, be branched, and wherein such alkylene groups and -(CH<sub>2</sub>)- containing chains may also be saturated or, when there is a sufficient number (i.e. two) of carbon atoms, be unsaturated and/or interrupted by oxygen,

~~or a derivative thereof~~, provided that when  $R^{5a}$  and  $R^{5b}$  both represent H, then D does not represent H or OH.

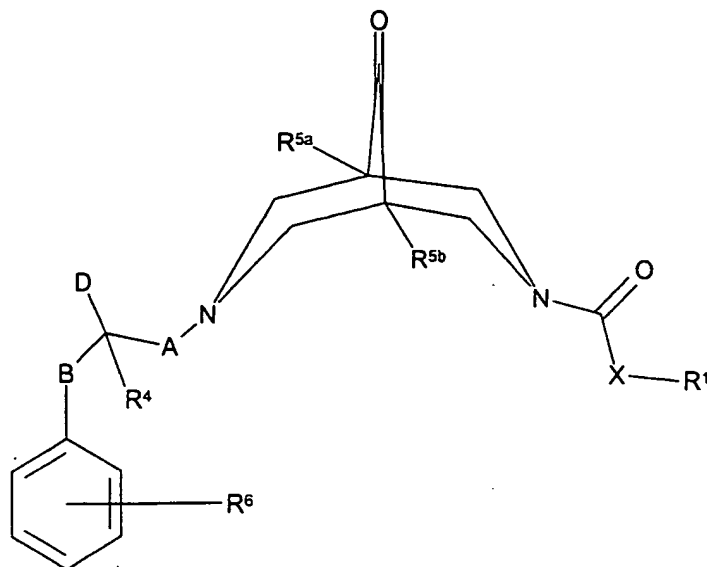
25 (currently amended). A compound of formula XVII,



wherein  $R^4$ ,  $R^{5a}$ ,  $R^{5b}$ ,  $R^6$ , A, B and D are as defined in Claim 1, ~~or a protected derivative thereof~~, provided that when  $R^{5a}$  and  $R^{5b}$  both represent H, then D does not represent H or OH.

26 (currently amended). A process for the preparation of a compound of formula VIII, ~~as defined in Claim 24, or a compound of formula XVII, as defined in Claim 25,~~





VIII

wherein

R<sup>1</sup> represents C<sub>1-12</sub> alkyl, C<sub>3-12</sub> cycloalkyl, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>a</sub>-aryl, or (CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>a</sub>Het<sup>1</sup> (all of which are optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from -OH, halo, cyano, nitro, C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl, C<sub>3-4</sub> cycloalkyl and/or C<sub>1-4</sub> alkoxy or C<sub>3-4</sub> cycloalkoxy);

a represents 0, 1, 2, 3, or 4;

Het<sup>1</sup> represents a five to ten-membered heterocyclic ring containing one or more heteroatoms selected from oxygen, nitrogen and/or sulfur, and which also optionally includes one or more =O substituents;

X represents O or S;

R<sup>5a</sup> and R<sup>5b</sup> independently represent H, C<sub>1-3</sub> alkyl or C<sub>3</sub> cycloalkoxy;

R<sup>4</sup> represents H, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl or C<sub>3-6</sub> cycloalkyl;

D represents H, -OH, or -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>c</sub>N(R<sup>10</sup>)(R<sup>11</sup>);

c represents 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4;

R<sup>10</sup> represents H, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl, C<sub>3-6</sub> cycloalkyl, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>d</sub>-aryl, -C(NH)NH<sub>2</sub>, -S(O)<sub>2</sub>R<sup>13</sup>, -[C(O)]<sub>e</sub>N(R<sup>14</sup>)(R<sup>15</sup>), -C(O)R<sup>16</sup> or -C(O)OR<sup>17</sup>;

e represents 1 or 2;

R<sup>11</sup> represents H, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl, -C(O)R<sup>18</sup> or -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>f</sub>-aryl (which latter group is optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from -OH, cyano, halo, amino, nitro, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy, C<sub>3-6</sub> cycloalkyl and/or C<sub>3-6</sub> cycloalkoxy);

R<sup>14</sup>, R<sup>15</sup>, R<sup>16</sup>, R<sup>17</sup> and R<sup>18</sup> independently represent H, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl, C<sub>3-6</sub> cycloalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup> or -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>g</sub>-aryl (which latter three groups are optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from -OH, cyano, halo, amino, nitro, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy, C<sub>3-6</sub> cycloalkyl and/or C<sub>3-6</sub> cycloalkoxy);

R<sup>13</sup> represents C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl, C<sub>3-6</sub> cycloalkyl, aryl or -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>h</sub>-aryl (all of which are all optionally substituted by one or more substituents chosen from halo, nitro, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy, C<sub>3-6</sub> cycloalkyl and/or C<sub>3-6</sub> cycloalkoxy);

d, f, g and h independently represent 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4;

Het<sup>2</sup> represents a five to ten-membered heterocyclic ring containing one or more heteroatoms selected from oxygen, nitrogen and/or sulfur, and which also optionally includes one or more =O substituents;

R<sup>6</sup> represents one or more optional substituents selected from -OH, cyano, halo, amino, nitro, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl (optionally terminated by -N(H)C(O)OR<sup>18a</sup>), C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy, C<sub>3-6</sub> cycloalkyl, C<sub>3-6</sub> cycloalkoxy, -C(O)N(H)R<sup>19</sup>, -NHC(O)N(H)R<sup>20</sup>, -N(H)S(O)<sub>2</sub>R<sup>21</sup> and/or -OS(O)<sub>2</sub>R<sup>22</sup>;

R<sup>19</sup> and R<sup>20</sup> independently represent H, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl or C<sub>3-6</sub> cycloalkyl;

R<sup>18a</sup>, R<sup>21</sup> and R<sup>22</sup> independently represent C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl or C<sub>3-6</sub> cycloalkyl;

A represents a single bond, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylene, -N(R<sup>23</sup>)(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>j</sub>-, -O(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>j</sub>- or -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>j</sub>C(H)(OR<sup>23</sup>)(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>k</sub>- (in which latter three groups, the -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>j</sub>- group is attached to the bispidine nitrogen atom, and which latter four groups are all optionally substituted by one or more OH groups);

B represents a single bond, C<sub>1-4</sub> alkylene, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>m</sub>N(R<sup>24</sup>)-, (CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>m</sub>S(O)<sub>n</sub>-, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>m</sub>O- (in which three latter groups, the -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>m</sub>- group is attached to the carbon atom bearing D and R<sup>4</sup>), -C(O)N(R<sup>24</sup>)- (in which latter group, the -C(O)- group is attached to the carbon atom bearing D and R<sup>4</sup>), N(R<sup>24</sup>)C(O)O(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>m</sub>- or -N(R<sup>24</sup>)(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>m</sub>- (in which latter two groups, the N(R<sup>24</sup>) group is attached to the carbon atom bearing D and R<sup>4</sup>);

i, k and m independently represent 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4;

n represents 0, 1 or 2;

R<sup>23</sup> represents H, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl, C<sub>3-6</sub> cycloalkyl or C(O)R<sup>25</sup>

R<sup>24</sup> represents H, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl or C<sub>3-6</sub> cycloalkyl;

R<sup>25</sup> represents H, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl, C<sub>3-6</sub> cycloalkyl, Het<sup>3</sup> or -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>p</sub>-aryl (which latter two groups are optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from -OH, cyano, halo, amino, nitro, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy, C<sub>3-6</sub> cycloalkyl and/or C<sub>3-6</sub> cycloalkoxy);

Het<sup>3</sup> represents a five to ten-membered heterocyclic ring containing one or more heteroatoms selected from oxygen, nitrogen and/or sulfur, and which also optionally includes one or more =O substituents;

p represents 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4;

wherein alkyl groups that R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>4</sup>, R<sup>5a</sup>, R<sup>5b</sup>, R<sup>6</sup>, R<sup>7</sup>, R<sup>7a</sup>, R<sup>7b</sup>, R<sup>8</sup>, R<sup>10</sup>, R<sup>11</sup>, R<sup>13</sup>, R<sup>14</sup>, R<sup>15</sup>, R<sup>16</sup>, R<sup>17</sup>, R<sup>18</sup>, R<sup>18a</sup>, R<sup>19</sup>, R<sup>20</sup>, R<sup>21</sup>, R<sup>22</sup>, R<sup>23</sup>, R<sup>24</sup>, R<sup>25</sup> and D may represent, and with which R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>7</sup>, R<sup>8</sup>, R<sup>11</sup>, R<sup>13</sup>, R<sup>14</sup>, R<sup>15</sup>, R<sup>16</sup>, R<sup>17</sup>, R<sup>18</sup> and R<sup>25</sup> may be substituted; and

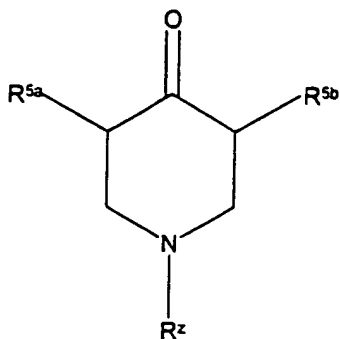
alkoxy groups and  $R^6$  may represent, and with which  $R^1, R^7, R^8, R^{11}, R^{13}, R^{14}, R^{15}, R^{16}, R^{17}, R^{18}$  and  $R^{25}$  may be substituted, may be linear or, when there is a sufficient number (i.e. three) of carbon atoms, be branched and/or cyclic, and wherein, when there is a sufficient number (i.e. four) of carbon atoms, such alkyl and alkoxy groups may also be part cyclic/acyclic, and wherein such alkyl and alkoxy groups may also be saturated or, when there is a sufficient number (i.e. two) of carbon atoms, be unsaturated and/or interrupted by oxygen and/or substituted by one or more fluoro groups; and

wherein alkylene groups that A and B may represent, and  $-(CH_2)-$  containing groups that  $R^1, R^7, R^8, R^{10}, R^{11}, R^{13}, R^{14}, R^{15}, R^{16}, R^{17}, R^{18}, R^{25}, A, B$  and D may include, may be linear or, when there is a sufficient number (i.e. two) of carbon atoms, be branched, and wherein such alkylene groups and  $-(CH_2)-$  containing chains may also be saturated or, when there is a sufficient number (i.e. two) of carbon atoms, be unsaturated and/or interrupted by oxygen,

provided that when  $R^{5a}$  and  $R^{5b}$  both represent H, then D does not represent H or OH, or  
a compound of formula XVII,

wherein  $R^4$ ,  $R^{5a}$ ,  $R^{5b}$ ,  $R^6$ , A, B and D are as defined in Claim 1, provided that  
when  $R^{5a}$  and  $R^{5b}$  both represent H, then D does not represent H or OH,

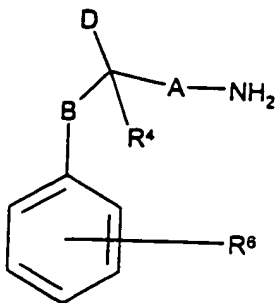
which comprises reaction of a compound of formula XXIX,



XXIX

F1

wherein  $R^z$  represents H or  $-C(O)XR^1$  and  $R^1$ ,  $R^{5a}$ ,  $R^{5b}$  and X are as defined in Claim 1 with a compound of formula XXX,



XXX

~~or a protected derivative thereof~~, wherein  $R^4$ ,  $R^6$ , A, B and D are as defined in

Claim 1, in the presence of a formaldehyde.

F1

27 (previously presented). A method as claimed in Claim 20, wherein the  
arrhythmia is an atrial or a ventricular arrhythmia.

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